



The County Seat

News from the Leesburg District

April 2003

From Mark Herring
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

Welcome! *The County Seat: News from the Leesburg District* is an electronic newsletter to update you on recent events related to the Loudoun County Government and the actions of the Board of Supervisors, especially as they affect residents in the Leesburg District. I am hopeful *The County Seat* will help you stay informed about your County government and improve communications with me as your elected representative on the Board. I invite you to read the updates in this issue and welcome your comments and opinions.

Mark Herring

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BUDGET NEWS

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors approved a fiscal plan totaling \$799.5 million for the general county government and school system for fiscal year 2004. This sets the tax rate for fiscal year 2004 at \$1.11, a 6-cent hike over last year's rate. It falls \$12 million short of fully funding the School Board's proposed budget for FY2004.

County Budget Initiatives

The adopted budget does provide funding to address critical needs in the areas of public safety and community services:

- ♦ 29 positions in the Sheriff's Office, including eight additional field deputies and staffing to address critical needs in the areas of criminal investigations, court security, dispatchers, School Resource Officers, and a new gang intelligence unit.
- ♦ A 4.5% increase in county funding for all volunteer fire and rescue companies.
- ♦ 26 positions in Fire and Rescue to increase field coverage in the community, expand the career battalion chief program, establish an Advanced

Life Support unit for the Rt. 50 corridor, and provide for a full-time operations officer for the Emergency Communications Center.

- ♦ \$350,000 for mosquito surveillance and eradication efforts to help control West Nile virus and malaria.
- ♦ Approximately 25 positions in Parks, Recreation and Community Services to expand CASA sites, child care programs, sports camps and clinics, and class offerings through the Area Agency on Aging - all of which will be offset by fees.
- ♦ \$75,000 for Mental Retardation Employment and Day Support Services, to help students who are leaving the school system.

Capital Improvements Program

The Board also adopted a six-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) totaling \$677 million. The CIP includes plans for building eight elementary schools, one middle school, and three high schools. A few of the other projects in the CIP include:

- ♦ Construction of public safety centers combining fire, rescue and law

enforcement services in Broadlands, South Riding, western Loudoun, Lansdowne, Brambleton, and Rt. 28 near Dulles Town Center;

- ◆ Renovation of the existing Volunteer Stations;
- ◆ Construction of a public safety building to house the county's law enforcement functions;
- ◆ Construction of the Ashburn Library and renovation of Rust Library;
- ◆ Construction of the Claude Moore Recreation Center in Sterling, Philip A. Bolen Memorial Park site near Leesburg, and Carver School Center in Purcellville;
- ◆ Five group homes and six townhouses/condos which are planned for MH/MR/SA residential services.

We also managed to fund several well needed programs that had not been previously included in the budget package. The board approved a \$50,000 challenge grant to support Fresh Air/Full Care, a campaign to raise money to provide day care and summer camp for the children of low-income working families. We also added \$155,000 in emergency mental-health crisis funds, \$46,000 for adolescent substance abuse programs, and restored \$60,000 for maintenance of athletic fields, which are used for youth sports in the County, that was proposed to be cut.

LEESBURG AREA MIDDLE SCHOOLS BOUNDARY UPDATE

The boundary changes for the Leesburg area Middle Schools come as a result of the future opening of Smart's Middle School, scheduled to open in August of 2004. The school will be located right next to Frances Hazel Reid Elementary School (opening in August 2003), between North King Street and the Route 15 Bypass. On March 11, 2003, Loudoun County Public Schools presented its staff recommendation to the School Board for the boundaries of all the Leesburg area Middle Schools. The staff recommended boundaries can be viewed on the LCPS website at: <http://www.loudoun.k12.va.us/planning/>. Public hearings on the recommended boundary were held in March and the School Board adoption date is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the NSO School Board Meeting Room, 102 North Street, NW, Leesburg. If you have questions or concerns over the proposed boundaries, please contact your school board representative, Fred Flemming - Leesburg District, phone: 703-777-2947 and Geary Higgins - Catoctin District, phone: 540-882-3874 or email gmmh@necanet.org.

GUIDE TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AVAILABLE

A booklet comprised of planning tips and detailed information to assist in preparing for a variety of emergencies is being made available to residents of Loudoun County. "Your Guide to Emergency Preparedness," offers information on preparing for many types of emergency situations. It includes instructions for creating an emergency supplies kit, making financial preparations, preparing for an extended loss of power, dealing with chemical/biological emergencies, homeland security, and much more.

Loudoun County and 14 other local Northern Virginia governments worked together with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission to create the guide.

Copies are available at all Loudoun County Community Centers and Loudoun County Public Libraries. The guide is also available on the Loudoun County government website at <http://www.loudoun.gov/general/emmerprep.htm>.



SYCOLIN ROAD UPDATE



The Town of Leesburg, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the County government have been collaborating for several years to improve Sycolin Road from just south of the Route 15 Bypass to north of Belmont Ridge Road. The planned improvements involve widening a section of the existing roadway and paving the remaining unpaved portions. The following will provide a breakdown of the project and the current status:

SEGMENT 1 - This is a Town of Leesburg project beginning at Hope Parkway to the Town Corporate Limits. From Hope Parkway to approximately 386 feet north of Battlefield Parkway/Lawson Road the road will be four-lane undivided and from 386 feet north of Battlefield Parkway/Lawson Road to the Town Corporate Limits the road will be four-lane median divided. There will be sidewalks on both sides of the road. Currently, the Town does not have plans for a trail, but Town staff may reconsider this as the County plans to have a trail on their portion. The engineering plan approval is estimated for December 2003 with construction underway by January 2005.

SEGMENT 2 - This portion of the project is a County project beginning at the Town Corporate Limit line to Loudoun Center Place. This will be a four-lane median divided with a 12-foot bike trail on the east side of the road. The engineering plan approval is estimated for October 2003 with construction underway by January 2005 (if funding is identified).

SEGMENT 3 - This is also a County project beginning at Loudoun Center Place to an area in the vicinity of the end of the existing runway at Leesburg Executive Airport. This will be a four-lane median divided with a 12-foot paved bike trail on the east side of the road. County staff will be selecting the design firm in February 2003 and hopes design and construction schedule will coincide with segments 1 & 2.

SEGMENT 4 - This is a VDOT project, which will pave three sections of the unpaved portion of the road just north of Belmont Ridge Road. The three unpaved portions total 1.4 miles of roadway, two-lane paved, 12-foot wide lanes, with 8-11 foot shoulders and 6 foot ditches. County staff has requested that a 4-foot shared bike lane be included in this project, but studies are needed to determine if Murray's Ford Bridge over Goose Creek can accommodate a shared bike lane. This segment is listed in the County/VDOT Secondary Road Six Year Improvement Plan. It is anticipated that the project will be advertised for construction in October 2006 and completed by 2007.

These improvements will relieve traffic off the Route 15 Bypass by providing residents of Kincaid Forest, Tavistock Farms, Beauregard Estates and Stratford easier access to the Greenway (via Belmont Ridge Road).

I would like to hear from you! For opinion or comment, please contact:

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